To do a great right, do a little wrong,
And curbe this cruell diuell of his will.
Por. It muſt not be, there is no power in Venice
Can alter a Decree eſtabliſhed:
Twill be recorded for a precedent,
And many an errour by the ſame example,
Will ruſh into the ſtate, it cannot be.
Shy. A *Daniel* come to iudgement: yea a *Daniel*.
O wiſe young Iudge, how I do honour thee.
Por. I pray you let me looke vpon the bond.
Shy. Heere tis moſt reuerend Doctor, here it is.
Por. *Shylocke*, ther's thrice thy money offred thee.
Shy. An oath, an oath, I haue an oath in heauen,
Shall I lay periury vpon my ſoule?
No, not for Venice.
Por. Why this bond is forfeit,
And lawfully by this the *Iew* may claime
A pound of fleſh, to be by him cut off
Neereſt the Merchants heart; be mercifull,
Take thrice thy money, bid me teare the bond.
Shy. When it is paid, according to the tenour.
It doth appeare you are a worthy Iudge,
You know the Law, your expoſition
Hath bene moſt ſound: I charge you by the Law,
Whereof you are a well deſeruing Pillar,
Proceed to iudgement: by my ſoule I ſweare,
There is no power in the tongue of man
To alter me, I ſtay heere on my bond.
Ant. Moſt heartily I do beſeech the Court
To giue the iudgement.
Por. Why then thus it is,
You muſt prepare your boſome for his knife.
Shy. O noble iudge, O excellent young man.
Por. For the intent and purpoſe of the Law,
Hath full relation to the penalty,
Which heere appeareth due vpon the bond.

Shy. Tis very true: O
How much more elder a
Por. Therefore lay ba
Shy. I, his breaſt,
So ſayes the bond, doth
Neereſt his heart, thoſe a
Por. It is ſo, are there
Shy. I haue them read
Por. Haue by ſome Su
To ſtop his wounds, leaſ
Shy. Is it ſo nominate
Por. It is not ſo expre
Twere good you do ſo m
Shy. I cannot finde it, t
Por. You Merchant, ha
Ant. But little; *I* am a
Giue me your hand *Baſſ*
Greeue not that *I* am fal
For heerein Fortune ſhe
Then is her cuſtome: it i
To let the wretched mar
To view with hollow ey
An age of pouerty; from
Of ſuch miſery doth ſhe
Commend me to your h
Tell her the proceſſe of
Say how *I* lou'd you, ſp
And when the tale is tol
Whether *Baſſanio* had n
Repent but you that you
And he repents not that
For if the *Iew* do cut bu
Ile pay it preſently with
Baſſ. *Anthonio*, I am m
Which is as deare to me
But life it ſelfe, my wife,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BRITIS